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THE KANSAS FARMER.

The Kansas Farmer Company, Proprietors.
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Communications.

Some Points Well Stated.

The following is taken from a letter to a gentleman in this city and was written by one who has unquestionably been a close observer of what was going on about him in the Arkansas Valley, where he resides. Much that he says is applicable elsewhere as well as in Barton county and we commend a careful consideration of it.

* * * Some modes of farming are conspicuous; they may all be reduced to two general classes—*superficial* and *thorough*; the first predominating very largely, the two being in the ratio of six to one, which may be called "putting it mildly." For example—an honest farmer wants to raise 50 acres of corn, 60 acres of wheat, and 30 acres of oats, leaving 20 for various sorts. He has a boy to help him. He starts out with his team, cutting furrows one-half mile long. He thinks he ought to plow deep so corn will grow. He does so. His boy drops the seed, while paternal ancestor cuts another furrow four feet from the other; and, while the dutiful son drops corn in this, he effectively covers the other with his plow, for it is never seen again in any shape whatever. Finding it did not come up, after a time he plows and plants half as much ground when it is too late to insure a crop for that year. Next year he determines to plant 50 acres of corn. He cuts the furrow shallow, so the corn will come up; and it surely does, and makes a good start, "because it hath not much deepness of earth;" and that is all it does make. The plowing is "too thin" to produce anything. This is one way some men attempt to raise corn for two years,—become discouraged about corn, quit it, and pronounce against it.

The wheat crop is treated on a different plan. The breaking is two inches deep. The re-breaking is the same, and altogether is work that is thin enough; "too thin" for a crop, because there was none! Next year he plows deeper, in fact quite as deep as possible, having delayed it for one reason or another until quite too late to do it thoroughly, which is more needful here than in Ohio, Iowa or Illinois. Yes, he plows deep. He harrows. He sows, and the seed grows, sure enough, but not very long, for the simple reason that the rootlets strike a chunk or a hole below, there not having been sufficient rain to dissolve the hard, unharrowed clods and lumps. The deep plowing has produced no wheat, is the sequel; and the shallow plowing produced none the year before; and so there is discouragement as to corn, and more denunciation of the country, and specially severe denunciation if still more provoked by having mortgaged his team to procure farm machinery for which there is now no use. His other crops succeeding in the same way, the man makes up his mind that he is beyond the rain belt,—too high up,—too far west, or something,—sells his claim; gets a pass and goes back where he ought to have stayed.

Some men put all into wheat,—a mistake grand enough if any one crop were to cover the quarter section, no matter where. No man can attend so much ground well. But there is a frequent boast. Now I maintain that any farm in this section of country can be made to produce sufficient for a fair livelihood.

1st. Let the farmer take in hand only so much as he can do well. More is ruinous.

2d. Let wheat ground be plowed soon enough, so it can be re-plowed and re-harrowed, and settle down before the wheat is drilled in.

Such treatment will, without doubt, insure a crop. He will not have more than half as many acres of wheat; but he will have something to reap, and that is what he is after.

3d. So in respect to corn. It must have deep plowing in this part of Kansas. It needs constant attention. Weeds must be kept down, the soil kept stirred up as soon as (?) the corn is up so as to catch the (?) ammonia from the passing air and other fertilizing properties that come along, and that will attract the dew. This will produce corn, and more corn than the shallow or "cut and cover" plan adopted by so many; not to speak of the neglect covered with it.

Lately I have traveled with horse and buggy one hundred and ten miles and return and during the journey I took notice of the crops. All the way from Nickerson to Spearville there

is not a field of corn that has had good attention, but is yielding its increase. All such fields are making good returns, and not one of them is bleached or blanched by the hot July sun. On the other hand, every field that is full of sand-burrs or other weeds is "dead and gone."

I came here three years ago, and bought ten acres of land,—an exceptional patch.—which I had broken *four inches deep*. I then had it rolled, harrowed, and planted with a planter; and some of it was cultivated with a two-horse walking cultivator, to see how it would do. It worked well. There was as good corn on this first breaking as on any other land. Next year it was re-broken *six inches deep*, planted to corn, well attended to, and I find the same a good crop,—a paying crop. On a patch that was worked deeper with matted and spade I planted potatoes. They were put in eight inches deep. They turned out well. From this I took the cue, and planted three-quarters

great deal of damage by burning wheat, oats, and hay in the stack, buildings, etc.

Besides the protection of property, which properly made fire-guards give, they are of immense value, indirectly, in keeping the vast amount of grass on the plains from being burned; which grass when left standing over the next season affords us an excellent mulch, protecting the surface of the earth and prevent rapid radiation of heat and evaporation of water; and holding more of the water that falls in rains than is held when burnt so as to let it flow off rapidly.

Thus the earth is enabled to imbibe more moisture and give it off again by evaporation, adding to the humidity of the air, which, with other causes, will increase the rain fall,—the great desideratum of Western Kansas. In fact, I believe one great cause of the increase of the rain fall in Kansas is the old grass left over by being protected by stock men for winter range for their stock. There is more old grass left

And about immigrants; there have been more Swedes come to Osage City and vicinity this season, than altogether in the eleven previous years I have lived here. I know that there are many Swede people who like whisky but not all nor the most of them.

ANDERS NELSON,

Stotler, Lyon Co., Kas.

Miscellaneous.

Blunt's Press Drill.

As will be seen from the cut, the Press Drill opens up the ground for the reception of the seed, with a shear, which is followed by a wheel that presses the earth on the seed. The drill is so constructed that the operator can throw part or all his weight on the shears, and thus press them into the ground the desired depth; or he can throw part or all his

In recognition of this probability the farmer considers it necessary to put in more wheat when sown broadcast then if drilled with a fluke drill. Farmers who are acquainted with these methods of seeding and the use of the Press Drill generally agree that while there is a saving in seed in the use of the fluke drill over broadcast sowing, there is quite as much difference over the fluke in the use of the Press Drill, owing to its superior method of planting the seed.

The genuine Blunt's Press Drill is sold only by the inventor G. B. Blunt, Chicago Ill, or his authorized agents. All correspondence should be addressed to him or to L. Mayo, Leavenworth, general agent for Kansas.

Adulteration of Sugar.

In England as well as in this country the subject of food adulteration is attracting uncommon attention, and legislation has been called upon to assist in protecting the innocent consumer, upon whom countless frauds have been committed. Many of the staple articles of food, such as milk, butter, and flour were found by a recent analysis to contain an average of over 15 per centum of adulteration. In some cases the foreign matter was found to be merely harmless, but in many more cases the adulterations were noxious and highly injurious to health.

The most extensive adulteration practiced in this country are those which effects a prime necessity of rich and poor alike—sugar. It is a fact not widely known that the sugar interest of the United States ranks first in importance and extent of all departments of commerce, and of the entire imports into the states one-sixth in bulk and value in sugar.

These broad facts indicate the vastness of the sugar consumption, and the fact that sugar enters largely into nearly all forms of infants' food that are used as a substitute for their mothers' milk is a cogent reason why dangerous adulteration of sugar should be prevented.

All laws that have been devised prove practically inoperative so far as protecting the consumer who buys in small quantities, for though the refiner who makes a business of adulterating sugar may be required to label his packages "New Process" or even name the deleterious substance with which pure sugar is debased, still the consumer rarely sees the original package, or if he does, is unlikely to examine it closely. The principal substance used in the debasement of sugar is starch made from corn, commonly known as glucose, which although not as harmful as many other substances with which sugars are adulterated, is still comparatively worthless in saccharine power, and, therefore, fraudulent when offered as sugar.

But the danger of putting into the delicate stomachs of infants, sugar that is contaminated with muriatic acid, muriate of tin or other harmful substances, cannot be exaggerated, and the use of "New Process" sugar should be discouraged by all reputable dealers, and with greater emphasis by consumers who can demand sugars that are known to be pure. The most extensive sugar refiners in the world are Messrs. Havemeyer & Elder, and it is a satisfaction to be able to state that every package of sugar sent out from their refineries (which in extent are like a city in themselves in Brooklyn, E. D.) contains a guarantee that it is absolutely pure. The wise consumer will not need to be told that it is better economy to buy pure sugar or syrup than that which has been reduced in strength.

Of course the safest way to secure pure sugar is to purchase an original package, and at the extensive refineries we have named half-barrels are put up as well as barrels, and contain the guarantee to which affidavits was published Nov. 13, 1873. In buying a diamond or a piece of silk, the purchaser who displays the greatest wisdom is the one who relies on the reputation of a great name as a guarantee of the excellence of an article of which he is comparatively ignorant, and an affidavit issued from the great refineries of the Havemeyers is as certain a guarantee of the purity of sugar as is obtainable.

It is an interesting fact to note that the guarantee of the Havemeyers is not an endorsement of their sugar based upon the reports of foremen or other subordinates, but a statement of positive practical knowledge of the active members of a vast industrial establishment.

The Sanitary Engineer, a journal that has made itself an authority on matters of hygiene, remarks in a recent issue that each of a number named groups of food, in which adulteration is practiced, "contains material for years of careful investigation and study" by the gentlemen appointed by the State Board of Health. Pending the appearance of reports from these gentlemen, which will probably reveal many strange facts, consumers of sugar at least have a safeguard.—New York Times.

of an acre this year, and have sold \$100 worth, while most others complain of having none. My corn this year stands like a forest when one is in it. Though the crop is not so heavy because of the hot July winds, yet it is remunerative. My garden excels.

The sure return for labor bestowed will always be realized, I believe. There may be exceptions to the rule; but the rule stands.

It is very much so with tree-culture. I have trees 10 feet high from cuttings put in two years ago. Trees need attention. I have some fine trees from this year's cuttings.

Now, I contend that there is a great lack of thorough cultivation of the soil. No plowing is too deep. No soil can be stirred too often. Let the labor in planting not be spared. Let the seed be of the best quality. In these respects the farming here has been wanting; if not in one thing, it has been in another.

When my work in planting potatoes was done on the 25th of last March, the man remarked: "Now if you do not have potatoes it will not be because you have not done work enough on them." He was in haste to get mine done so he could plant for himself. He did plant for himself, and got none! Such is the difference. Such differences induce many to go back to their father-in-law's.

If no man had more than 60 acres in crops leaving the 100 acres untouched, except as the Creator made it, there would be three times more produced than is the case. There is too much ambition to boast of many acres planted, "that only lendeth to poverty." It has been more than once said that—"his six acres produce more than many a large farm." But the same ratio of work to the acre will do as well on a large farm as on a small one. I find many who think it is all luck with me. There is no luck about it. Nothing but the application of common sense.

Make Fire Guards—Do Not Burn the Prairies.

It is time to prepare fire guards ready to protect from prairie fires which usually commence in early autumn and which have already occurred in western Kansas this summer, doing a

weight and that of the front part of the drill on the wheels. He is thus, and with the aid of the gauges on each side of the drill, enabled to govern the depth of the grain as desired.

Simply sliding back on the seat bench enables the operator to raise the shears out of the ground, which is necessary in turning. The press wheels are arranged with springs and ratchets to turn the shafts with a forward motion, and to turn on the shaft with a backward motion, the operator is thus enabled to turn as easily as if there were only two wheels.

The gauges are located on the end of the seed box and rest on top of the connecting arm, and are slotted so as to be raised or lowered to effect the depth of the furrows as desired.

The press drill has a force feed which is not excelled by any other feed in simplicity, even distribution of seed and reliability. The amount sowed is easily regulated and without extra pieces.

To those who have not used the Press Drill and have not considered its merits sufficient to give it a trial, we would respectfully refer to our general observation of the effect of rolling or pressing the earth over seed of all kinds, and feel confident they will agree with the claims made.

In times gone by, when we covered corn with a hoe, we found a benefit in placing a No 9 on top the hills, and now get a better result by rolling or pressing the entire row, and if the season be very dry, by rolling the spaces between the rows, thus inducing a prompt, even, vigorous and continued growth.

In planting potatoes and garden seed we get a like result from pressing the earth on the seed. The wheat grower has observed that the germ appears earlier in the wheel tracks made by a fluke drill or a wagon drawn over a field just after sowing, that in some cases there is several days' difference in the time of appearance of that rolled by the wheel and that not rolled.

Owing to the ground and season being dry, without doubt a large per cent. of the grain not thus covered, either does not sprout or sprouts and makes a feeble effort to grow and from lack of nourishment from the soil, dies.

The Sober Swedes.

EDITOR KANSAS FARMER.—I noticed in your issue of June 29th, an article signed "L. N. H." containing a letter from his son in Sweden who is a railroad inspector. He says times are very hard in Sweden, which I know to be so, and that all do not get 1,500 kronor per year, but the most of them less. He wants his father to "come home and escort us all to America, but not to Kansas," on account of the prohibitory law, for which I am glad, for a man that cannot make a living in Sweden on 1,500 kronor a year cannot do much in Kansas.

What we need here is industrious, temperate people; drunkards we do not need.



The Blunt Press Drill.

A Heap o' Fun.

Only a Joke.

A tailor not far from Petticoat lane got hold of a red-hot idea. He heated up his goose to the blistering point and placed it on a bench at his door with the sign reading, "Only six pence." In a few minutes came an ancient-looking Israelite, with an eye for bargains, and, as he saw the goose and read the sign, he made up his mind that he had struck it rich. He naturally reached out to heft his bargain, and that was where he gave himself away. The tailor almost fell down with his merriment, but it did not last over sixty seconds. At the end of that time the victim entered the shop and began a sort of gymnastic performance which did not end until the tailor was a sadly mashed man and his shop in the greatest confusion. The two were fighting in front when an officer came along and nabbed both, and both were brought before his Honor together. The tailor appeared with a black eye and a finger tied up in a rag, and the Israelite had a scratched nose and was minus two front teeth.

"Well?" queried the court, as the pair stood gazing at him.

"Vhell, I shall speak first," replied the tailor. "I like to have a shake sometimes, und so I put dot goose out dere. Id vhas all in funs, und I am werry sorry."

"I couldn't see whar the fun cum in," said the other. "Dis yere han' am all burned to a blister, an' I won't be able to use it for two weeks."

"Did you put dat goose out there for a joke?" queried the court.

"Yaw—it was only a shoke."

"And were you joking when you entered the shop and made things hum?" he asked of the other.

"No, boss, I wasn't. I am an old man and not much giben to laffin' an' cuttin' up. When I let go of dat goose I made up my mind to mash dat tailor flatter dan a billyard ball. It was my first fout for ober forty y'rs, but I got de bulge on him an' was usin' him up when de officer stepped in. No, boss, I wasn't jokin' 'bout dat time."

"Were you very tickled?" he queried of the tailor.

"Vhell, I was tickled 'ntil he pitched into me."

"You were the only one who had any fun out of it?"

"Vhell, I s'pose so."

"Then you'll have to foot the bill. I shall let him go and fine you 40 shillings."

"Dot ish pooty high."

"Yes; but it was a rich joke, you know."

"Maybe she vhas, but I guess I let dat goose cool off now. Here is 40 shillings, und now I shall go home. I bid you goot day."

The Comet.

Yesterday morning between three and four o'clock we were called from our bed by the presence of a sorrel cow with an inadequate tail in the grounds of our winter palace.

She had eaten a row of tuberoses and some mignonette to sweeten her breath, and was just smelling of the statue of Eli Perkins which stands on the west side of our boulevard, when we came up behind her with a bed sat and smote her on the snoot.

While merrily romping with her over the velvety lawn, our attention was suddenly called to a large \$250 comet, nor west by nor, and about three feet above the horizon, with its tail over the dashboard.

When first seen it was in perihelion with the dome of the court-house, but while we watched it either the court house changed position or we did, and the space became more clearly defined.

Some are of the opinion that this comet is the one that appeared about twenty-five years ago, but our own idea is that it is a new one that has never been used.

It has a nucleus that shines with a nebulous light. It also carries with it a hyperbola and a parabola, in a common valise.

A well known astronomer claims that this is a comet which, according to the books, isn't due yet for 1,500 years. There must be some mistake, however, unless it lost something when it was here 500 years ago, and has returned to see if it cannot find it. Still its running time may have been changed in order to stir up competition with other comets.

We had not time to fully investigate the wonderful celestial phenomenon as people began to pass where we were taking observations, and, noticing our simple costume, called the attention of other people to us, and, in a short time, a large and demonstrative audience had gathered near us, which disturbed our scientific researches and concluded the early morning session.—*Detroit Free Press.*

It is an old story about the countryman who invited two girls into an ice cream saloon and called for a small glass and three spoons, though of course everybody takes it for a newspaper yard; but it can be discounted by an actual occurrence at A. D. Russell's yesterday. A young gentleman came into the store with three young ladies, and inquired the price of soda water.

"By gosh!" he exclaimed, "five cents a glass! Well, give us one glass; I guess it will go round."

One glass of the refreshing beverage was actually divided among the crowd.

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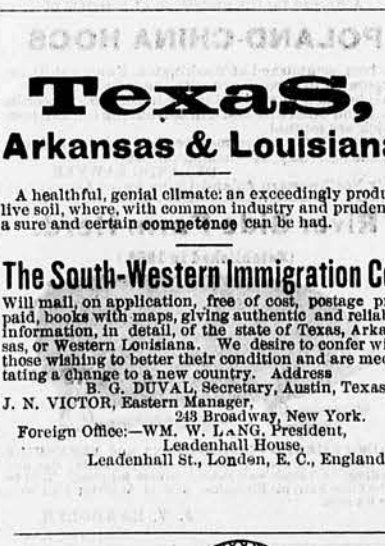
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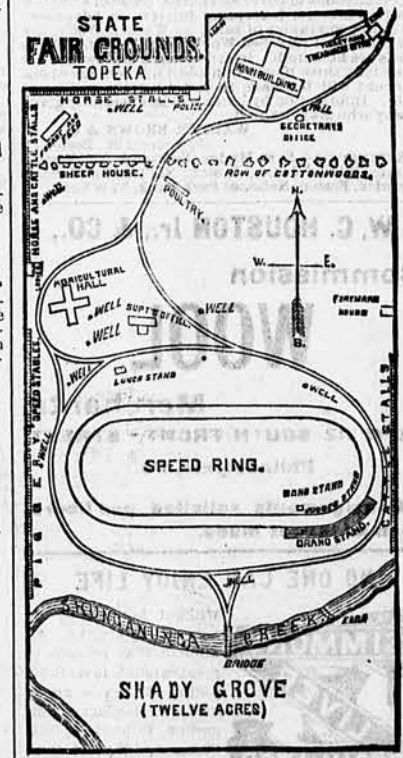
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